

1900.

ANNUAL REPORT
ON THE HEALTH

OF THE

Rural Sanitary District

OF THE

ISLE OF WIGHT.

BY

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ANNUAL REPORT

ON THE

HEALTH OF THE RURAL SANITARY DISTRICT
OF THE ISLE OF WIGHT,

FOR THE YEAR 1900.

To the Members of the Isle of Wight Rural District Council.

GENTLEMEN,

I have the honour to submit to you an account of the vital statistics, the sanitary history of the year, and of the sanitary state of your district generally at the end of the year, which constitutes my annual report for 1900.

I. VITAL STATISTICS.

There were 20,747 inhabitants in the Isle of Wight Population. Rural Sanitary District when the census was taken in 1891. At the census of 1881 there were 28,008. Since the 1891 census was taken 2,515, or 8.45 of the inhabitants have been included in the urban populations. Assuming the same rate of increase had obtained as during the previous decennium it is estimated the population of your district in the middle of 1900 would have numbered 31,486 had these changes not taken place. It is quite uncertain what the present population is, but for the purpose of this report it is assumed to have been 29,000 in the middle of the year.

The natural increase of population by excess of births over deaths was 182.

Population in
acreage.

There are 85,114 acres in the Isle of Wight Rural Sanitary District. In 1891 there were 87,599 acres; 1,785 acres, including farming and other agricultural land, having been separated from the district. The average population to the acre in the middle of the year was 0·34, or one person to 2·93 acres.

Births and
Deaths.

642 births and 460 deaths according to the registration returns occurred in your district in the year 1900. 324 of the births were those of boys and 318 were those of girls. Of these 642 births 36 were illegitimate—18 boys and 18 girls. There were 260 deaths of male persons and 191 of females.

The births and deaths in each quarter was as follows:—

	BIRTHS.			DEATHS.		
	M.	F.	Total.	M.	F.	Total.
1st quarter . .	74	91	165	93	79	172
2nd „	88	77	165	73	40	113
3rd „	92	78	170	40	37	86
4th „	70	72	142	54	35	89
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
	324	318	642	260	191	460

Birth-rate and
Death-rate.

The birth rate in the Isle of Wight Rural Sanitary District in 1900 was 22·13 per 1000 of the population, which is somewhat higher than the phenominally low birth rate of the two previous years. In 1899 it was only 20·7 per 1000, in 1898 21·0, in 1897 24·2, in 1896 24·8, in 1895 30·2, in 1894 22·5, in 1893 25·9, in 1892 24·7, in 1891 25·3, in 1890 24·1.

The death rate was 17.58 per 1000 living, but the deaths included 84 from among those who temporarily sojourned in the district. These died in public institutions with one exception of which I had knowledge. Deducting these 84 from the total number of deaths, the death rate is reduced to 12.96 per 1000 living.

The mean birth-rate in the ten years 1890-99 was 23.94 Mean birth-rate and death-rate in ten years. and the mean death-rate was 15.53 per 1000 living. If we compare the mean birth-rate and the mean death-rate for ten years with the birth-rate and death-rate of 1900 we find that the birth-rate was 1.81 below and the death-rate was 2.05 above the average.

In England and Wales the birth-rate in 1900 was 28.9 Birth-rate and death-rate in England and Wales. per 1000 of the population, which is lower than that in any other year on record. Compared with the average in the ten years 1890-99, the birth-rate in 1900 shows a decrease of 1.2 per 1000. The death-rate in 1900 was 18.3 per 1000, which is equal to the rate in the year immediately preceding, but 0.1 below the average rate in the ten years 1890-99.

The death-rate in country districts—that is to say the areas outside the boundaries of urban sanitary districts—was 16.9 per 1000 of the population of the rural districts of England and Wales. The mean death-rate in these districts in the ten years 1890-99 was 16.7 per 1000.

The birth-rate in the Isle of Wight Rural Sanitary District in 1900 was 6.8 below the birth-rate of England and Wales and 8% below the mean birth-rate in the years 1890-99. The death-rate was 0.8 below the death-rate of Comparison of the birth-rate and death-rate in the I.W. Rural Sanitary District with those of England and Wales.

England and Wales, and 0·9 below the mean annual death-rate of the ten years 1890-99. Deducting the deaths among strangers in the district, the death-rate was 5·4 below the general death-rate of the year and 5·5 below the average death-rate of the ten years 1890-99. The death-rate of the Isle of Wight Rural Sanitary District was 0·6 above that of the rural districts of the country generally, or deducting the deaths among temporary residents 4·0 below it, and it was 0·8 above the mean annual death-rate in rural districts in the ten years 1890-99, or, deducting the deaths among strangers, 3·8 below it.

Comparing the death-rate of the Isle of Wight Rural Sanitary District in each of the ten years 1891 to 1900 with the death-rate in England and Wales, and with that of the rural registration sub-districts in the same years we find it was in

	ENGLAND AND WALES.	RURAL DISTRICTS.
1891	3·7 below the average.	2·0 below the average.
1892	0·7 „ „	0·2 above „
1893	4·6 „ „	2·8 below „
1894	0·3 above „	1·3 above „
1895	1·9 below „	0·2 below „
1896	3·6 „ „	1·8 „ „
1897	4·2 „ „	2·6 „ „
1898	3·1 „ „	1·3 „ „
1899	3·1 „ „	1·1 „ „
1900	0·8 „ „	0·6 above „

Male and
Female death-
rate.

In 1900 9 males per 1000 of the population of your district died and 6 females.

Infant
Mortality.

The 460 deaths registered in your district in 1900 included those of 41 infants who died under one year. The rate of mortality of infants under one year of age to

1000 registered births was 63·86. The mean proportion of deaths under one year of age to registered births in the ten years 1890-99 was 93·0 per 1000. In England and Wales the rate of mortality under one year of age to registered births was 154, which is one per 1000 above the mean proportion of the ten years 1890-99. In your district it was 30·1 below the mean proportion of the ten years 1890-99. Excluding 1000 larger towns the mortality under one year was equal to 138 per 1000 in England and Wales. In the Isle of Wight Rural Sanitary District in 1900 the infant mortality was 90·2 per 1000 below that of the country generally, and 74·2 per 1000 below that of the country after excluding 100 larger towns.

67 children, 14·5 per cent of all the deaths, died under 5 years of age, and 26 children, or 5·6 per cent. of the deaths, died between one and four years. The deaths between one year and sixty-five numbered 227, or 49·6 per cent. of the deaths.

192 persons died at 65 and upwards, which is equal to 41·7 per cent. of the deaths at all ages, a very high proportion. Of these, 38 died between 65 and 70, 89 between 70 and 80, 55 between 80 and 90, and 7 died over 90. Of these 3 were men and 4 were women. The men had been respectively an agricultural labourer, a blacksmith, and a fisherman. One of the women had been a domestic servant, and the others were the widows of peasants. The fisherman and the blacksmith attained the age of 94, the greatest age at death. They lived their lives out in somnolent Brighstone.

I have again to call attention to the fact that the sub-registrars in their ordinary returns do not distinguish between the deaths of visitors and permanent residents, unless they die in institutions. In any health resort, and

Mortality of the aged.

Deaths of strangers in the District.

particularly in one which persons suffering from phthisis visit, deaths will occur among visitors, and these deaths should be definitely noted as otherwise the diseases from which the resident population suffer cannot be accurately determined. The returns show that 84 strangers to the district died within it. Of these 32 were visitors from different parts of England and Wales, 28 of whom died in the Consumption Hospital, one in a private sanatorium—all from consumption—and 3 died in the Asylum. Of the 58 persons who died in the workhouse 43 normally formed part of the urban population of the Island; and of the 16 deaths which occurred in the Asylum, 9 were inhabitants of the urban districts of the Island and 3 came from the mainland.

Longevity.

The remarkable percentage of deaths at 65 and upwards would naturally be explained by the deaths in public institutions, such as the Workhouse, the Asylum, and Parkhurst Prison, the district being credited with the deaths of aged persons who did not properly form part of its normal population, and this is the case to some extent. Of the 40 deaths at 65 and upwards in the Workhouse, 31 were those who had lived in urban districts; 3 out of the 5 of these deaths in the Asylum were among those who had been transferred to it from the towns; and the 3 aged prisoners who died at Parkhurst, although permanent residents, did not strictly belong to the district. But, deducting these, 33·69 per cent.—more than a third—of all the deaths occurred at 65 and upwards.

Deaths from violence.

9 persons met their deaths by violence. Of these 4 were suicides—one by hanging, one by shooting, two by cutting their throats—and one case of drowning was uncertain, but it was probably suicidal. One man fell from a bicycle and was killed, two infants were suffocated

while sleeping with their mothers, and an infant of unknown parentage was found dead. 1.9 per cent. of the deaths in 1900 were due to violence, and 0.31 per 1000 of the population. In 1899 the deaths from violence were 1.8 per cent. of the deaths and 0.27 per 1000 of the population. In 1898 they were 2.1 per cent. and 0.31 per 1000; in 1897, 1.8 per cent. and 0.24 per 1000; in 1896, 4.9 per cent. and 0.66 per 1000; and in 1895, 2.6 per cent. and 0.47 per 1000 respectively.

The mean percentage of deaths from violence in the Isle of Wight Rural Sanitary District during the ten years 1890-99 was 2.8. In England and Wales the deaths of 0.64 per 1000 of the population were referred to different forms of violence in 1900, against 0.61 and 0.64 in the previous two years. In 6.3 per cent. of the deaths inquests were held.

The 46 deaths included—

15	attributed to diphtheria
2	„ „ enteric fever
1	„ „ puerperal fever
1	„ „ measles
2	„ „ whooping cough
5	„ „ diarrhoea
<hr/>	
26	

Mortality from
certain diseases,
Zymotic
diseases.

These 26 deaths from the different forms of zymotic disease were equal to a death-rate of 0.82 per 1000 of the population, and to 5.6 per cent. of all the deaths. The zymotic death-rates of the two previous years were 0.86 and 0.70 respectively. The mean zymotic death-rate in the Isle of Wight Rural Sanitary District in the ten years 1890-99 was 0.91 per 1000 of the population. The zymotic

Zymotic death-
rate.

death-rate in England and Wales in 1900 was 2.00 per 1000 living, against 2.17, 2.22, and 2.21 respectively in the three preceding years. But excluding 100 large towns it was 1.57 per 1000 in 1900. The average annual zymotic death-rate in England and Wales during the decennium 1881-90 was 2.30 per 1000 living, against 3.95, 4.15, and 3.38 per 1000 respectively in the three decennia comprised in the period 1851-80.

Phthisis.

64 deaths from consumption occurred in your district in 1900, equivalent to 2.2 per 1000 living. Of these, 29 took place in the Royal National Hospital for Consumption, and one in a private sanatorium among visitors to the Island; and one person died from phthisis in the Asylum who was a visitor in your district from one of the towns of the Island. Deducting these, the death-rate from phthisis was 1.10 per 1000 of the ordinary population of your district. It was 1.12 per 1000 living if we exclude the deaths among strangers to the Island only. The percentage of deaths from phthisis to all the deaths was 13.9, or deducting the deaths among visitors, 7.1. The percentage of deaths from phthisis to all the deaths in England and Wales is 9.3.

Lung disease.

Bronchitis, pneumonia, and plenrisy caused the deaths of 68 persons, 14 of whom died under five years of age, and 10 of whom did not belong to your district. These deaths are equivalent to a rate of 2.3 per 1000 living, and to a percentage of 14.7 of the deaths. 3.3 per 1000 is the mean annual death-rate in these diseases for the country generally.

Heart disease

56 persons died of heart disease, of whom 5 did not belong to the district. The deaths from heart disease were equal to a rate of 1.9 per 1000. The percentage of

deaths from heart disease to all the deaths was 42·1. The mean death-rate of heart-disease in England and Wales is 1·3 per 1000.

21 deaths from different forms of malignant disease ^{Cancer.} were registered, equivalent to 2·3 per cent. of the deaths and 0·72 per 1000 living. The mean percentage of deaths from cancer is 2·7 in England and Wales.

There were registered the deaths of 11 cases of different ^{Scrofula.} forms of scrofulous disease other than phthisis. This is equivalent to a percentage of 2·3 of the deaths. The mean percentage of deaths from this disease in the country generally is 3·6.

In 1900, 173 cases of infectious diseases were notified. ^{Notified diseases.} They were equal to 5·9 per 1000 of the population. These notifications included 101 cases of scarlatina, 54 cases of diphtheria, 5 cases of enteric fever, 1 case of continued fever, 3 cases of puerperal fever, and 9 of erysipelas.

The Local Government Board have supplied forms for record of statistical data different from those supplied hitherto. Four tables have been substituted at the suggestion of the Incorporated Society of Medical Officers of Health for the Tables A and B previously in use. Although the preparation of the new tables was hurried on with a view to their being brought into use at the beginning of the twentieth century, the fact appears to have been lost sight of that the present report is for the last year of the nineteenth century. My information is to the effect that either the new tables or those for which they are to be substituted may be used for this report, and consequently I have made use of the old tables with a view to maintaining uniformity to the end of the century which has passed.

(A) Table of DEATHS during the Year 1900, in the ISLE OF WIGHT

NAMES OF LOCALITIES adopted for the purpose of these Statistics; pub- lic institutions being shown as separate lo- calities. (a)	MORTALITY FROM ALL CAUSES, AT SUBJOINED AGES.							(i)	1 Smallpox.	2 Scarlatina.
	(b) At all ages.	(c) Under 1 year.	(d) 1 and under 5.	(e) 5 and under 15.	(f) 15 and under 25.	(g) 25 and under 65.	(h) 65 and upwards.			
NEWPORT.	43	8	3	2	1	9	20	Under 5 5 upwds.		
WORKHOUSE.	58	1				17	40	Under 5 5 upwds.		
PARKHURST PRISON.	19				2	14	3	Under 5 5 upwds.		
PARKHURST BARRACKS.	5	1				4		Under 5 5 upwds.		
LUNATIC ASYLUM.	16					11	5	Under 5 5 upwds.		
COWES.	42	4	4	1	1	12	20	Under 5 5 upwds.		
RYDE.	32	4	1		1	11	15	Under 5 5 upwds.		
BRADING.	44	4	1	1	4	14	20	Under 5 5 upwds.		
GODSHILL.	62	4	8	2	3	19	26	Under 5 5 upwds.		
ROYAL NATIONAL HOSPITAL FOR CONSUMPTION.	30			1	10	19		Under 5 5 upwds.		
CALBOURNE.	109	15	9	10	4	28	43	Under 5 5 upwds.		
TOTALS	460	41	26	17	26	158	192	Under 5 5 upwds.		
The subjoined numbers have also to be taken into account in judging of the above records of mortality										
Deaths occurring outside the District among persons belonging thereto.								Under 5 5 upwds.		
Deaths occurring within the District among persons not belonging thereto.	84	1		1	10	38	34	Under 5 5 upwds.		

Rural Sanitary District, classified according to DISEASES, AGES, and LOCALITIES.
 MORTALITY FROM SUBJOINED CAUSES, DISTINGUISHING DEATHS OF CHILDREN
 UNDER FIVE YEARS OF AGE.

3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	
FEVERS.																				
Diphtheria	Membranous Croup	Typhus	Fetidic of Typhoid	Continued	Relapsing	Puerperal	Cholera	Erysipelas	Measles	Whooping Cough	Diarrhea and Dysentery	Rheumatic Fever	Phthisis	Pneumonia and Pleurisy	Heart Disease	Injuries	All other Diseases	TOTAL		
											1		1					7	11	
													3	3	0		1	16	32	
																		1	1	
		1												11	8			37	57	
													1	1	5			12	19	
														1					1	
													1	1				2	4	
													1	1				14	16	
	1									1				3			1	2	8	
													5	4	10		2	13	34	
														1				4	5	
						1							2	8	6			10	27	
														1				4	5	
														3	8	5		3	20	39
									1	1	1			3				6	12	
	1												6	7	4			31	50	
														29				1	30	
	4										2		2	4	1		2	9	24	
	9										1	2	10	10	7			40	85	
	5								1	2	4		3	14	2		3	38	67	
10		2					1				1	2	61	51	54		6	202	303	
																			1	
													30	10	5			37	87	

(B) Table of POPULATION, BIRTHS, AND OF NEW CASES OF INFECTIOUS during the year 1900, in the Isle of Wight Rural Sanitary

NAMES OF LOCALITIES adopted for the purpose of these Statistics; Public Institutions being shown as separate localities. (a)	POPULATION AT ALL AGES.		Registered Births. (d)	Aged under 5 or over 5. (e)		
	Last Census. (b)	Esti- mated to middle of 1898. (c)			1 Smallpox.	2 Scarlatina.
NEWPORT.			116	Under 5		13
				5 upwds.		34
WORKHOUSE.				Under 5		
				5 upwds.		
PARKHURST BARRACKS.				Under 5		
				5 upwds.		3
COWES.			91	Under 5		3
				5 upwds.		7
RYDE.			67	Under 5		15
				5 upwds.		47
BRADING.			70	Under 5		3
				5 upwds.		25
GODSHILL.			102	Under 5		
				5 upwds.		8
CALBOURNE.			106	Under 5		6
				5 upwds.		17
TOTALS	29,747	19,000	642	Under 5		40
				5 upwds.		141

State here whether "Notification of Infectious Disease" is compulsory in the District, insert in the columns with blank headings the names of any other Diseases name of the Isolation Hospital used by the sick of the District. Mark (H) the Locality is situated. - No Isolation Hospital.

SICKNESS, coming to the knowledge of the Medical Officer of Health, District; classified according to DISEASES, AGES, and LOCALITIES.

NEW CASES OF SICKNESS IN EACH LOCALITY, COMING TO THE KNOWLEDGE OF THE MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH.

	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	
	FEVER S.											
Diphtheria												
Membranous Croup												
Typhus												
Enteric or Typhoid												
Continued												
Relapsing												
Puerperal												
Cholera												
Erysipelas												
10												
35									2			
				1			2					
									2			
					1				1			
1				1					1			
				1								
5									1			
13												
49				2					2			
23												
92			5	1			3		9			

AREA AND POPULATION OF THE DISTRICT OR DIVISION TO WHICH THIS RETURN RELATES.
 Area in Acres, 85,144.
 Population (last Census), 29,747.
 (estimated to middle of 1898), 29,000.
 Death Rates--General, 17.58 per 1,000 Population, estimated to middle of 1898.
 Infant (under one year of age), 63.8 per 1,000 Births registered.

District. Yes. Since when? January 1st, 1890. Beside the above mentioned that are notifiable in the District, and fill the columns accordingly. State here the in which such Hospital is situated; or if not within the District, state where it

THE SANITARY HISTORY OF THE YEAR.

In writing the sanitary history of the year it will be convenient to give some account of the cases of zymotic diseases present in the district during the year, and to deal with the questions appertaining thereto, and to describe the measures taken with a view to prevent the occurrence of such diseases, and to refer to other matters of the period under review which have a direct bearing upon the interests of the public health.

Zymotic
diseases.

The principal preventable diseases which appeared in your district during the year were scarlatina, diphtheria, enteric fever, continued fever, puerperal fever, erysipelas, measles, whooping cough, chicken pox, and rotheln. The four last named diseases are not notifiable. These, together with scarlatina and diphtheria in mild form, were especially widespread, particularly in certain sections of your district.

Measles was more universally present than I have hitherto known it, but there was only one death from it, that of an infant who died in March, at Walpan, Chale. It prevailed at Whippingham, Wootton, Haven Street, Brading, Wroxall, Godshill, Niton, Chale, Gurnard, Parkhurst, Lock's Green, and Thorley; and there were cases in other districts.

Whooping Cough was less generally present, but its incidence was severe at Whippingham, Northwood, Godshill, and Whitwell; and two infants died of whooping cough, one at Gurnard, the other at Whitwell.

Chicken-pox was present in epidemic form at Whippingham, Wootton, Bembridge, St. Lawrence, Godshill, and other parts of the district.

Rotheln was also widely epidemic in the central districts of the Isle of Wight and in the Calbourne district.

Scarlatina of a very mild type was persistent in epidemic form, particularly in the Ryde section. Commencing among the children attending the Bettesworth Road Schools in the Autumn of 1899, and subsiding when the schools were closed, it again became epidemic in 1900, and cases occurred at Haylands, Upton, Ashey, and the neighbourhood throughout the year. From thence it spread to Binstead, and cases occurred at Haven Street. Cases occurred at Nettlestone, Brading and Bembridge, Adgestone, Newchurch, Chale, and Brighstone, Brook, Freshwater, Calbourne, Carisbrooke and Gunville, Whitcombe, Bowcombe, Parkhurst Barracks, and Whippingham. There was a case in the Bonchurch Convalescent Home sent from a London hospital as convalescent from pneumonia. There was no death from scarlatina in your district in 1900.

Diphtheria, also of so mild a type that it was not, unfortunately, always recognised, was epidemic at Carisbrooke, Gunville, Whitcombe, and Bowcombe, especially among those who had had scarlatina. It was also particularly widely prevalent in Brighstone, and at Freshwater and Totland Bay. There were also cases at Niton, a case at Shorwell imported from Carisbrooke, and a case was notified at Swanmore. A boy of 3 years died of paralysis after diphtheria at Gurnard, and a girl of six

died at St. Catherine's lighthouse of diphtheria. The remainder of the fifteen deaths from this disease occurred at Brighstone and at Freshwater and Totland.

Enteric Fever. The cases of enteric fever, of which five were notified, occurred one at Totland Bay, an imported case; one at Little Chessell, probably from drinking from the polluted Shalcombe branch of the Caulbourne stream; one at the Workhouse, an imported case from Cowes; one at Fishbourne Coastguard Station, and one at the Coastguard Station at the Foreland. The source of the poison in these two last cases could not be determined. Neither unboiled water nor unboiled milk had been taken in either case. The origin of the case of a boy of five at Haven Street could not be discovered. A case of enteric fever notified in 1899 died at Whitwell early in 1900.

Continued Fever. A case of illness at Fairlee was notified as continued fever.

Puerperal Fever. The cases of three parturient women at the Workhouse who continued to suckle their children were notified as suffering from puerperal fever.

Erysipelas. Nine cases of idiopathic erysipelas were notified during the year.

The compulsory notification of infectious diseases was enforced in your district on January 1st, 1900, when the Act came into operation. It has not only been administered without friction, but has proved a most important sanitary measure.

But although the medical men who practise in your district have rendered strict obedience to the requirements of the Act, especially in recent years, experience has shown that a considerable number of those suffering from infectious diseases are not medically attended. Moreover,

the requirement that the head of the household as well as the medical man in attendance should notify the medical officer of health, is not observed. To meet this difficulty you have requested the public elementary school teachers in your district to notify me the names of children absent from school because they are reported to be suffering from scarlatina, diphtheria, typhoid fever, measles, whooping cough, influenza, chicken pox, mumps or sore throat, upon stamped forms supplied by you. This arrangement commenced in 1899, but 1900 was the first full year in which it was in operation. I received during the year between 400 and 500 notifications from public elementary school teachers, and I have found the intimations so received of great service in my work. There is an advantage to the ratepayers in these school notifications, and to the teacher if he or she receives a share of the Government Grant, because I give a certificate under 101* of the code, which enables the school managers to claim the average attendance for the year of each child during his or her absence while suffering from infectious disease.

As I have so often pointed out the difficulty of securing Isolation. efficient isolation in many of the homes of your district, I will not enlarge upon the subject at the present time. But I must say I very much regret the lethargy of public opinion upon sanitary questions, if, indeed, it exists at all. It has been very painful to me as an individual to note during the past as in every previous year of my eighteen years term of office, that lives have been sacrificed from this cause in your district.

In my annual report for the year 1899, pp. 31 to 38, I Isolation Hospital. considered so fully the isolation hospital question which has been before the sanitary authority of your district so

many long years, it is not necessary to dwell upon it now. The latest suggestion to which you adhere is that the Isle of Wight County Council should be invited to provide an isolation hospital for all sections of the Island which do not possess the means of isolating cases of infectious disease. In my opinion you would do wisely to keep the sanitary care of your district in your own hands. To look back from the sanitary standpoint upon the inner history of this and other questions which have engaged your attention during the past eight or ten years is not edifying.

Disinfection.

Sulphurous acid gas is the germicide made use of for disinfection in your district. I have found it sufficiently effective or I should use some other disinfectant. I cannot recall one recurrent case. It is the duty of the inspectors themselves to disinfect in every case, and the fact I have stated would appear sufficient evidence that they do their work effectually.

Spread of infectious diseases at schools and closure of schools by the Sanitary Authority.

If proof of the efficacy of closing schools to prevent the spread of infectious diseases were necessary, it would be supplied by the history of the past year. Having regard to the extreme irritation of certain School Boards and autocratic managers, and having regard to the fact that the types of the diseases which prevailed in epidemic form were very mild, I have abstained, as far as possible, from taking the initiative in suggesting the closure of schools. I was influenced somewhat by an expression of sympathy with a school manager who appealed to him from H.M. Inspector of Schools, whose very admirable—apart from feasibility in the present stage of opinion—alternative method is to employ medical men to inspect daily or at frequent intervals, all the children in attendance at public elementary schools. I was also influenced

by local circumstances, such as the non-closure of the Bettesworth Road schools. The long continued prevalence in the Ryde district of scarlatina, and of diphtheria in the Carisbrooke, Brighstone, and Freshwater districts—representing in the aggregate a large expenditure of money, and a considerable loss in an educational sense—would have been scarcely possible had the schools been closed for six weeks. When, however, measles denuded the schools, I was appealed to by the Ryde School Board with reference to Haven Street, and by the managers of the schools at Wootton, Godshill, Whitwell, Chale, Thorley, & Gurnard, and of Calbourne for rotheln, Bembridge for chicken-pox, and so on. I readily consented to recommend the closing of these schools although the sanitary benefit was small, as measles is particularly infectious during the stage of incubation. But it is scarcely fair to expect the assistance of the sanitary authority in securing the grant, and to grumble at its interference when prompt action may prevent a serious outbreak of scarlatina or diphtheria, although the necessity may not be obvious if there are only a few absentees, and if the grant does not appear seriously endangered.

You have during the year given attention to the ques- Scavenging.
tion of scavenging in the more populous places of your district, not only as regards removal of house refuse, a most important matter, but with reference to the emptying cess-pits. You purchased a tumbler cart for use in this respect at Horsebridge Hill. Your difficulties in scavenging Freshwater in the absence of a sewer have been very great, and you have now supplemented the pneumatic with a tumbler cart. Complaint came to you from the Sandown District Council of the pollution of the stream which is the source of the Sandown water

supply, at Wroxall, by sewage. Similar complaints have been made to you from time to time in the past, and cesspit overflows have been cut off, to be restored as soon as the vigilance of the inspector was relaxed. The Wroxall Parochial Committee again pleaded for further delay ; but it is your duty to scavenge Wroxall.

Scavenging
refuse of the
towns.

Few years pass without complaint of nuisance from the deposits of town refuse in your district. During the year under review the refuse of the Borough of Newport was more in evidence than that of other towns, placed as it is near the highway to Ryde and East Cowes. The urban authorities met your request very courteously that their scavenging contracts should contain clauses regulating the disposal of the refuse so that it should not be a nuisance. But your own bye-laws should do this.

Water supply
and sewerage.

Slowly it may be, but you continue to advance the sanitary well-being of your district by means of independent water supplies and by sewerage, and the past year has been no exception. That you should accomplish so much is surprising, having regard to your cumbrous mode of procedure by means of parochial committees, upon which you are represented only by the representative or representatives of the particular parish on your Council.

Water supply.

As I have so often pointed out, your district is most favourably situated for the provision of independent water supplies. A range of chalk downs runs through it from east to west ; and skirting its south-east and southern coast is another range of downs of upper and lower greensand with the gault between them which holds up the water in the former. On the north of the central range, the water runs from the chalk over the

rim of tertiary clay which lies against it, at some elevation. On the south of the centre range and on both sides of the southern range the water runs from the lower strata of the greensand just above the gault, and if it does not flow at a particular spot it may generally be made to do so by running an adit just above and parallel with the gault. You have taken advantage of these conditions to supply portions of your district independently; and you have arranged with the Corporations of Newport and Ryde—who supply those towns, by pumping in one case from the chalk and in the other from the chalk and lower greensand—to supply other portions of your district with water from their mains. During the year 1900 you continued your endeavours to secure independent water supplies from the available sources I have named. In addition, private landowners have forwarded schemes of water supply for their tenantry.

One of these private schemes will bring water from the upper greensand above Apse, on the north of the southern range of downs to Apse Heath. You have decided to lay mains from Apse Heath to Newchurch, and you have arranged to purchase the water for this supply upon very favourable terms. The work will be carried out by your inspectors who are also your surveyors. Newchurch water supply.

The owner of Gatcombe has supplied that village from the upper greensand by means of a scheme frequently suggested in my annual reports. Gatcombe water supply.

At the County Council inquiry which resulted in the recommendation that part of the parish of Binstead should be added to North Arreton, the representatives of Binstead pledged themselves to consent to the supply of Kite Binstead water supply.

Hill and Fishbourne, by extending the Binstead water main. You are carrying out this extension, and at the time of writing the laying of the pipes is almost completed.

Northwood
water supply.

In September you obtained sanction for your scheme for supplying the parish of Northwood from the Newport Waterworks. The Corporation, however, were unable to sell you water for this purpose until they had constructed a high level reservoir. Consequently you did not advertise for tenders for the work as you did not see the advantage, especially having regard to the high price of iron, of finishing the laying of pipes a long time before the reservoir could possibly be completed. But the Local Government Board directed you to proceed, and you have applied for tenders. This would seem to suggest you are not in earnest, and if it be so it is an additional evidence, if you will allow me to say so, of the discredit which must necessarily attach to you if you permit yourself to be hindered in your duty by parishes rent by faction the outcome of struggles to safeguard supposed private interests to the disadvantage of the community, the welfare of which it is obligatory upon you to secure.

Bowcombe
water supply.

Carisbrooke is supplied with water by the Corporation of Newport, and this supply has been extended to Castle street during the year. By agreement with the landowners beneath whose land the water was taken for the Newport Waterworks, the main has been laid to Bowcombe.

Bembridge and
Brading
water supply.

You sought sanction from the Central Authority to borrow money to enable you to supply Bembridge and Brading with water from the Bembridge limestone. You were advised to apply to the Corporation of Ryde for a

supply from their waterworks at Knighton, which you accordingly did. After great delay, for which you were in no manner responsible, the Corporation very wisely decided they could not accede to your request. In anticipation of the annual water famine you arranged with the Realization Company as in former years, to supply water to standpipes in different parts of Bembridge. Although abundant rain relieved the situation to some extent, the standpipes were a great convenience to the inhabitants. Notwithstanding the determined opposition to your application of the large majority of those who represented Bembridge at the Local Government Board inquiry, it is said that they now favour the source of water supply you proposed. They refused to consent to receive a supply from the Ryde Waterworks.

In my last annual report I stated that the Shallfleet Parochial Committee, having abandoned the proposed source of water supply from the Bembridge limestone at Churchills, because of the onerous conditions which the owners of the property sought to impose, had sunk in the chalk south of the source of the western branch of the *Caulbourne*. An abundant supply was found, but analysis proved it to be impure. Before relinquishing it you ordered the hole to be pumped out, when it was found the water had been maliciously polluted. You have now applied for sanction to borrow £4000 to enable you to give the Parish of Shallfleet an independent water supply.

The Calbourne Parochial Committee applied to you to revive the proposition to supply Calbourne independently. Your inspector's estimate of the cost—some £3000—was considered a larger sum than the parish would consent to be responsible for, and the proposition was dropped.

It would seem to be unfortunate the scheme your predecessors caused to be prepared for the joint supply of the Parishes of Shalfleet and Calbourne from the powerful Calbourne spring, at a cost of less than £4000, was so readily given up. The Sanitary Authority possess the means of judging what is best, and they should insist upon fulfilling their obligations under the sanitary law. But a protest from a parochial committee, and there always will be protests if money has to be spent, is too often sufficient to nullify the work of months or years. The Parish of Calbourne requires water almost as much as the Parish of Shalfleet. It may get its supply from Shalfleet now, but it will probably be unwilling to do so. The joint scheme referred to would have supplied a much larger area of your district at less cost to each parish, and its abandonment does not reflect credit upon the responsible authority.

Chale and
Blackgang
water supply.

The Chale Parochial Committee, under the guidance of their representative on your Council, have devoted themselves during the year to the work of perfecting their scheme for the independent supply of Chale and Blackgang. Sufficient water has been found in the upper greensand at considerable elevation; and at the time of writing the scheme is sufficiently advanced to justify the application for sanction for a loan to enable you to carry it out. The Chale Committee have been of the greatest possible service to you in assisting you to fulfil your duty under the Public Health (Water) Act in that part of your district.

Niton water
supply.

You negotiated with the owner of the powerful spring at the head of the Niton branch of the Eastern Yar. His conditions were onerous, and you did right in relinquishing your intentions to supply Niton independently from

this source, and especially as the cost of pumping would have added considerably to the outlay. During the year you have again endeavoured to open up negotiations with the view of obtaining the water from Downcourt, but the legal obstacles appear insurmountable. There is abundant water in the upper greensand between the Hermitage and Berelay, at an elevation which would enable you to supply both the village of Niton and Niton Undercliff by gravitation, and in time you will doubtless secure a source of supply within these limits.

For some years it has been in contemplation to give ^{Arreton water supply,} an independent water supply to Arreton. During the past year virtually nothing has been done to further this end. The South Arreton Parochial Committee are supposed to have the matter in hand.

You have kept in view your obligation to provide ^{Sewers,} sewers for people to drain into; and in some of the more populous places, sewerage is becoming each year a work of more pressing urgency.

This remark applies, before all others, to Freshwater. ^{Freshwater sewer,} In the year 1892 the County Council made an order constituting Freshwater an urban district. Upon appeal, the Local Government Board made the refusal to confirm the order conditional upon an undertaking being given among other things, to sewer the place. The Freshwater Parochial Committee named an engineer and plans were prepared which failed to obtain the approval of the Local Government Board. The Committee requested you to appoint another engineer whose plans were accepted by them in principle; and in due time application was made for sanction to borrow and an inquiry was held. It was proposed to treat the sewage

and discharge the effluent into the estuary of the Yar. Exception was taken to this by landowners and others, and the Inspector suggested the sewage should be collected at one point and pumped into the sea to the north. You at once gave directions to prepare plans for this purpose, and you secured the option to purchase a piece of land suitable for the erection of a pumping station. You applied for sanction to borrow the sum necessary for carrying out the work, and an inquiry has been recently held. As the scheme for sewerage Freshwater developed, considerable opposition was manifested on account of the estimate of cost. It was proposed to substitute for it a system of sewers which would discharge into bacterial tanks. Sanction to this involved an undertaking that if it did not succeed, the Rural District Council would lay another sewer. At the recent inquiry an opposing scheme promoted by the parish councils of Freshwater and Totland was introduced. It is proposed to discharge the sewage into the English Channel to the south of Freshwater Bay. It is a cheaper scheme and therefore popular, but it would not be difficult to frame objections to many of its provisions, not the least of which is that it would skirt a small somewhat landlocked bay with which it would be associated in men's minds. This bay is the only point at which Freshwater can obtain direct access to the sea and where sea bathing can be obtained. There is almost violent opposition to the discharge into the sea to the north by pumping the sewage to an outfall parallel to the outfall of the Totland Bay sewer. But it is proposed to carry the outfall farther to sea than that of the Totland Bay sewer, which runs along the shore for a distance of 350 yards. The best outcome would be for the Local Government Board to consent to a loan for fifty years, seeing that the scheme

which has been adopted will absorb the whole of the present borrowing powers of Freshwater, which however is increasing in rateable value rapidly.

After years of struggle and faction warfare, and in ^{Gurnard sewer,} spite of intrigue within as well as without your district against its best interests, you have at length been able to fulfil your obligations to Gurnard as regards sewerage. The contract for the work is let, and the work of carrying out the sewerage scheme designed by your surveyor is proceeding under the supervision of the Northwood special sewer committee.

The Wootton sewer has been extended in accordance ^{Wootton sewer,} with the plans of your surveyors and under the general superintendance of a special committee. This important work will add to the sanitary security of Wootton and will aid its development. Complaint was made by the Whippingham Parish Council and private residents of a nuisance from its discharge in Wootton Creek, before any house connections with it had been made.

Extensions of the Binstead sewer have been made in ^{Binstead sewer,} connection with the development of private property.

Advantage was taken of the breaking of a pipe of the ^{Bembridge Sewer,} sewer outfall at Bembridge by the railway company while pile driving, to relay a portion of it which was defective and was becoming choked by sand which readily found access to it. If the outfall could have been lengthened at the same time, the money expended would have been a mere fraction of the value of the asset which would have been secured. As an example of the mistaken deference paid to the protests of parochial committees, a proposal of the inspector to extend the sewer at

Bembridge to take the sewage of a large house, and of which proposal I approved, may be quoted. The owner of the house offered a sum of money towards the cost of the proposed extension. The recommendation was submitted to the Bembridge Parochial Committee who protested against it, and their veto was allowed. A cesspit was constructed which the committee had to scavenge at considerable cost. They have now applied to you to extend the sewer to take the drainage of this house. £10 will be contributed in aid, but of course the cost of the cesspit will be wasted, and the cost of scavenging will represent money thrown away. The truth is, in such cases, the opinion of the ratepayers of a particular parish is not voiced but that of a few dominant personages. It may be said that if the ratepayers, and especially the largest contributors and the better educated among them are so apathetic, they deserve to suffer. That may be so if you were not responsible; but it so happens it is your council as a whole, and not merely the representative or representations of a particular parish—who with the members of the parish council, constitute the parochial committee—upon whom the obligations of the sanitary law rest.

Totland sewer.

I have already stated that the Totland sewer outfall runs for 350 yards along the shore. It is continued out to sea for another 600 yards. In the early part of the year the shore portion of the outfall was considerably damaged by the sea. It was alleged this was due to the removal of shingle from the beach by local representatives of the War Office. You repaired the sewer, straightened it, and by the courtesy of the resident officer you accepted the offer of the War Office to carry an extension of their sea wall outside a part of it.

You very properly contributed to the cost of making a ^{Yarmouth} drain common to several houses in the Station Road in ^{Sewer,} order to connect them with the sewer. It was necessary to carry this drain above ground at the backs of the houses and to reconstruct and raise the w.c.'s. Although the town was put to considerable expense to scavenge the cesspits of these houses, the Yarmouth Parochial Committee strongly opposed your making a contribution to the cost. You are under obligation to construct sewers for people to drain into, and if the sewers your predecessors and you have made are so faulty that people cannot drain into them, you have to adopt expedients to meet the difficulty, as in this instance; and you are fortunate in being relieved of part of the cost of doing so. The Yarmouth sewer has been an object lesson to your predecessors and you for many years, and the wonder is the lessons taught have not been more perfectly taken to heart. One of these is that your sewerage scheme should provide for a far wider area than that proposed to be sewerred; another is that the sewer should be laid at a minimum depth of 6ft. The money expended on the Yarmouth sewer in less than thirty years would probably go a long way towards paying for it twice over. You have taken up branches of sewers laid only a few years, and relaid them at a greater depth, because houses could not drain into them. This can be done when a town is situated on a declivity; but it is impossible in a level place like Yarmouth.

The evil has arisen by yielding to the clamour of the parish. It is quite astonishing how quickly single rate-payers develop into sanitary engineers in the presence of looming expenditure for sewerage or water supplies. When obtained, these sanitary provisions are most

valuable assets exceeding enormously their original money cost, and the more perfectly they are done the more valuable they are. The community should have the best possible of everything; and it is not right that the present generation of ratepayers in any parish should be permitted by the sanitary authority to prejudice the future by adopting cheap schemes in order to save their pockets, and especially as they will benefit out of all proportion to the amount of money they will have to pay.

Gurnard special
drainage
district.

Another example of absence of broad views in sanitary matters is the desire to form special drainage districts. The argument urged is that those benefited should pay for the benefit. As a matter of fact the whole parish benefits by expenditure upon sanitary works in the more populous parts of it, not only in a health sense but also as regards rating. The rateable value of the locality is at once raised by the expenditure upon it, and increase of rateable value in the future is stimulated by the sanitary provisions made. In fact the parish has made a good investment. But it is bad policy, and it is not fair, particularly having regard to shrinking agricultural values, to prematurely establish these places as urban areas, or to annex them to the towns. The Northwood Parochial Committee applied to have Gurnard constituted a special drainage district, you forwarded the application to the Local Government Board, stating you made no objection. The application was refused.

Drainage
byelaws.

One of your bye-laws forbids cesspit overflows. At St. Lawrence the overflow of a cesspit was carried into another pit under the road, from which the contents soaked away. It was a somewhat difficult case, and your committee advised you to take no further action. It was

an unsatisfactory termination of the dispute, and it was more unsatisfactory because this was not the first evasion of your byelaws by the individual responsible for it.

You accepted a suggestion of your inspector for the north-east district, and adopted the following regulation :
 " All connections between water closets and soil pipes are to be made by means of a cast brass socket, caulked with spun yarn and red lead, or by other approved joint, to the satisfaction of the surveyor. No joints between a water closet and soil pipe are to be buried in a wall."

Sanitary fittings.

Freshwater has been difficult to deal with for many years, at least for the eighteen years I have had the honour of being medical officer of health, as I described in my last annual report, pp. 43, 44, 45. It is only during the past eighteen months that the necessity for sewerage, which you are under an obligation to provide, has been even grudgingly admitted by the majority of the inhabitants. The cost of sewers in such a place must necessarily be great, but a section of the inhabitants stimulated by outsiders prefer to pay the annual cost of local administration to devoting the amount of that cost to sinking fund and interest of a loan which would secure the best possible system of sewerage.

Freshwater and County Council Inquiry.

They accordingly petitioned the County Council to be created an urban district, and an inquiry was held resulting in an order being granted constituting the whole parish of Freshwater an urban area. It is absolutely inexplicable that the Rural District Council at any possible meeting could be persuaded to acquiesce in an order which separated from the district about one-tenth of its rateable value, but it was so. The resolution was fortunately reversed, and the Local Government Board was petitioned against the order.

Freshwater and
Local Govern-
ment Board
Inquiry.

An inquiry was held, the result of which has not transpired. You have endeavoured to the best of your ability to fulfil your undertaking. The Local Government Board have, through their inspectors, afforded you every assistance, and doubtless that assistance will be continued if you maintain your present attitude. There can be little doubt some means will be found of providing Freshwater with a thoroughly satisfactory sewerage system, at a cost which will not be oppressive.

Bye-laws for
dairies, cow-
sheds, and
milk shops.

The labours of your committee were brought to a close early in the year by the acceptance by you and the sanction of the central authority, of the byelaws for dairies, cowsheds, and milkshops, which they drafted. This is a most satisfactory step in advance, for although you have regulated dairies, cowsheds, and milkshops for many years you had not the power to enforce your regulations.

Bye-laws for
slaughter-
houses.

The same committee framed bye-laws for slaughter-houses, which were also accepted and sanctioned.

Standing orders.

Among the advances of the year under review was the adoption by you of standing orders to regulate your proceedings.

Premises.

You made considerable structural alterations in the premises you occupy as offices in Newport. You have constructed a room sufficiently large for your meetings. You find it convenient to hold your regular fortnightly meetings at the Workhouse, assembling as you do after the meeting of the Board of Guardians, of which you are members; but for meetings of the General Purposes Committee—which is a committee of the whole Council—and some of the other committees you use the new room at your offices.

The Inspectors have furnished me with the following summaries of their work :—

EAST MEDENE.

SUMMARY OF WORK DONE DURING 1900.

	NORTH.	SOUTH.
Number of nuisances and other matters reported	366	356
.. .. . abated without final notice	89	81
.. re-inspections $\frac{1}{2}$ nuisances	341	157
.. final notices served	32	2
.. houses reported unfit for human habitation	—	1
.. houses placed in repair	—	1
.. .. . closed (demolished)	—	1
.. .. . cleansed and disinfected	23	18
.. legal proceedings taken	—	—
.. cases of overcrowding reported	—	1
.. .. . abated	—	1
.. privy cesspools provided and properly constructed	6	22
.. privies put on the pail system	1	17
.. wells sunk and other improved supplies of water obtained	48	6
Also all Lord Alverstone's property at Apse Heath, &c., supplied from his private main by him.	—	—
Number of wells cleansed	3	—
.. .. . closed	—	—
.. pumps repaired	—	1
.. .. . provided	8	—
.. houses drained and connected with sewers	48	—
.. house drains repaired and trapped	14	12
.. refuse and accumulations removed	3	19
.. dairies inspected and re-inspected	19	10
.. .. . limewashed after notice	—	2
Districts scavenged—Bradley and Bembridge	2	—
Plans of new buildings approved by R.D.C.	31	19
Inspections made of new buildings	214	139
Extensions of the Wootton sewers	—	—
Alteration and repairs to Bembridge sewers	—	—
Extensions of R.D.C. offices	—	—
Extensions of the Binstead Sewers (Fleming Estate).	—	—
Newmarket Water. Plans prepared and forwarded to L.G.B.	—	—
Pollution of stream at Wroxall	—	—
12 cattle killed by lightning at Godshill Park, and buried by owner after final notice was served.	—	—

NEW HOUSES ERECTED, 1900.

NORTH.				
Ashey	...	Haylands	...	1
Bembridge	...	Denmet Road, &c.		8
Binstead	...	New Road, &c.		6
Brading	...	The Mall, &c.		6
North Arreton		Wootton	...	2
Total				23

SOUTH.				
Arreton	...			2
Alverstone (Brading Parish)				2
Bonchurch (addition)	...			1
Godshill		3
Niton		7
St. Lawrence		1
Wroxall		4
Total				20

WEST MEDENE.

SUMMARY OF WORK DONE DURING 1900.

	NORTH.	SOUTH.
Number of nuisances and other matters reported	374	327
" " abated without final notice	125	105
" re-inspections made	222	160
" official notices served	22	15
" houses reported unfit for human habitation	—	1
" houses placed in habitable repair	—	10
" " closed	—	—
" " cleansed and disinfected	35	25
" legal proceedings taken	—	—
" cases of overcrowding reported	1	1
" " abated	1	1
" privy cesspools provided and properly constructed	40	20
" privies put on the pail system	21	14
" wells sunk and other improved supplies of water obtained	33	44
" wells cleansed	1	2
" " closed	—	—
" defective pumps repairs	4	—
" pumps provided	7	5
" houses drained and connected with sewers	10	—

Summary of work done during 1900—continued.

	NORTH.	SOUTH.
Number of house drains repaired and trapped ...	45	17
.. refuse and accumulations removed ...	8	10
.. dairies inspected and re-inspected ...	41	22
.. .. linewashed after notice ...	4	2
.. bakehouses linewashed after notice...	2	1
.. districts scavenged (Totland, Freshwater, Yarmouth)—(Carisbrooke) ...	3	1
.. plans approved by R.D.C., ...	33	7
.. houses and other buildings ...	47	16
.. inspections made of new buildings ...	152	115
District sewered: Carisbrooke	—	1
Number of houses connected therewith	—	183
District being sewered: Gurnard		
.. .. supplied with water: Gatecombe		

NEW HOUSES ERECTED 1900.

		NORTH.	
Freshwater	...	High Street	2
..	...	Copse Lane	2
..	...	Colwell	2
..	...	New Village	1
..	...	Freshwater Bay	7
..	...	Norton	1
..	...	Station Road	3
..	...	Church Place	2
Totland	...	Somers Lane	4
..	...	Crabtree Lane	2
..	...	New Road	1
Shalfleet	...	Ningwood Common	1
Yarmouth	...		1
			—
			29
		SOUTH.	
Shalfleet	...	Wellow	1
Brooke	...	The Green	2
..	...	Hulverstone	1
Brighstone	...	The Grove	1
Shorwell	...	Ladylands	1
Carisbrooke	...	Gunville Lane	4
..	...	Alvington Road	1
..	...	High Street	1
..	...	Cedar Hill	1
(Parkhurst)	...	Albany Road	4
..	...	Heytesbury Road	2
			—
			22

For the following summary of meteorological observations made at the Post Office, High Street, Newport, about 50 feet above sea level, I am indebted to the courtesy of Alfred N. Le Messurier, Esq.

Month.	Maximum for month	Minimum for month	Mean daily maximum	Mean daily minimum	Mean Temperature	Rain-fall for month	Number of wet days	greatest fall in one day
Jan. ...	52.1 on 24th	26.0 on 6th	46.7	37.4	42.0	4.13	19	1.30 on 6th
Feb. ...	57.2 on 25th	21.0 on 10th	45.0	35.0	40.0	6.14	22	.92 on 13th
Mar. ...	57.4 on 12th	23.3 on 18th	46.6	34.9	40.7	1.24	9	.35 on 21st
April ...	73.8 on 22nd	29.0 on 1st	57.3	40.1	48.7	1.31	11	.65 on 3rd
May ...	70.2 on 29th	36.6 on 12th	62.5	44.5	53.5	1.59	11	.31 on 22nd
June ...	82.6 on 12th	47.1 on 6th	69.9	51.9	60.9	2.83	16	1.00 on 21st
July ...	91.1 on 25th	43.2 on 8th	76.8	56.6	66.7	.81	8	.24 on 2nd
Aug. ...	84.4 on 14th	47.0 on 25th	71.3	54.3	62.8	2.72	14	.58 on 27th
Sept. ...	75.8 on 7th	38.3 on 3rd	69.4	48.2	58.8	.89	7	.39 on 27th
Oct. ...	66.2 on 8th	34.3 on 28th	58.9	45.7	52.3	2.99	16	.78 on 29th
Nov. ...	60.2 on 1st	29.2 on 11th	52.5	42.2	47.3	3.13	20	.46 on 28th
Dec. ...	55.3 on 5th	32.1 on 22nd	51.4	41.2	46.3	3.68	23	.96 on 30th
For year	91.1 Jly. 25th	21.0 Feb 10th	59.0	44.3	51.6	31.46	176	1.30 Jan. 6th

In 1900 the total rainfall at Newport, north of the chalk range, and rather north of the centre of the Isle of Wight, with a semi marine climate, was 31.46in. In 1899 it was only 25.29in.; in 1898 it was 28.24in.; in 1897, 26.96in.; in 1896, 27.32in.; in 1895, 29.15in.; in 1894, 39.74in.; in 1893, 28.53in.; in 1892, 24.97in.; in 1891,

38·96in. ; in 1890, 26·31in. ; in 1889, 28·34in. ; in 1888 29·02in. ; in 1887, 24·43in. The mean rainfall in Newport in the ten years, 1891-1900 was 30·26in.

At Ryde, on the north east coast, with a climate wholly marine, and removed some miles from the influence of the range of chalk downs which affects the rainfall of Newport, 20·69in. of rain fell in the first nine months of 1900. The rainfall was not recorded at Thornborough, where the observations are made, in October, November, and December : but assuming Ryde had the same rainfall as Newport in those months, the total rainfall for the year would have been 30·49in.

There were 176 wet days at Newport. In 1899 there were 137 ; in 1898, 150 ; in 1897, 172 ; in 1896, 153 ; in 1895, 149 ; in 1894, 183 ; in 1893, 146 ; in 1892, 172 ; in 1891, 172 ; in 1890, 153 ; in 1889, 163 ; in 1888, 179 ; in 1887, 141 ; in 1886, 202 ; in 1885, 159. The mean number of wet days in the ten years 1891-1900 was 161.

The minimum temperature of the year was 21·0, on Feb. 10th, and the maximum was 91·1, on July 25th.

The mean temperature for the year was 51·6.

January was a smileless, dull, wet month, with variable temperature. 1·30in. of rain fell on the 6th. The night of the 6th had the minimum temperature of the month, 26·0. The mean temperature (42·0) was 1·5 lower than the mean temperature in January, 1899. 4·13in. of rain fell in 19 days at Newport, and 3·87in. fell at Ryde.

February was the wettest February on record. Rain or snow fell on all but 6 days. The second week was very cold, the minimum temperature was 21·0 on the 10th ; the

last week was warm. The maximum temperature of the month was 57·2 on the 25th. The mean temperature of the month was 40·0. The humble bee was out on the 25th, and the brimstone butterfly on the 26th. 6·14in. of rain fell at Newport in 22 days, 5·56in. fell at Ryde.

March was a cold, dry, wintery month. There was less wind and sun than usual in March. The mean temperature was 40·7. 1·24in. of rain fell in 9 days at Newport, and 1·04in. fell at Ryde.

April was bitterly cold and dull, with showers from the north-west. A sudden burst of heat occurred on the 20th which lasted to the 22nd, which was the day of maximum temperature for the month, 73·8. On the 25th the maximum temperature was 27° lower than on the 22nd. The minimum temperature for the month was 29·0 on the 1st. The mean temperature was 48·7. 1·31in. of rain fell at Newport in 11 days, and 1·26in. fell at Ryde.

May was a generally cold and dry month, with cold north and north-east winds. Cold showers from the south-west prevailed until the 11th, followed by sunless days. The maximum temperature was 70·2 on the 29th, the minimum was 36·6 on the 12th. The mean temperature was 53·5. 1·59in. of rain fell at Newport in 11 days, and 1·19in. fell at Ryde. The hawthorn was in bloom on the 18th.

June commenced with cold north-east winds, and cold cloudy days, followed by winds from the south-west with rain almost every day. A waive of heat from 9th to 13th brought the maximum temperature, 82·6 on the 12th. The minimum temperature was 47·1 on the 6th. The

mean temperature of the month was 60·9. 2·83in. of rain fell in 16 days—1·0in. on the 21st—at Newport, and 2·93in. fell at Ryde.

July was the driest and hottest July on record. The month began wet, 1·24in. of rain falling on the 2nd. It was intensely hot from the 10th to the 27th, the maximum temperature for the year was 91·1 on the 25th. The minimum of the month was 43·2 on the 8th. The mean temperature was 66·7. 0·81in. of rain fell at Newport in 8 days, and 1·19in. fell at Ryde.

August at the beginning was wet and autumnal, with south-west wind; but from the 11th to 19th there was dry, hot summer weather. The maximum temperature, on the 14th, was 84·4. The minimum temperature was 47·0 on the 25th. The mean temperature was 62·8. 2·72in. of rain fell at Newport in 14 days, and 2·37in. fell in Ryde.

September was a dry sunshiney month. The maximum temperature, on the 7th, was 75·8; the minimum temperature, on the 3rd, was 38·3. The mean temperature was 58·8. Only 1·89in. of rain fell at Newport in 7 days, and 1·28in. at Ryde.

October was a very mild month without frost, and foliage was unaffected. The maximum temperature was 66·2 on the 8th; the minimum temperature was 34·3 on the 28th. The mean temperature was 52·3. The last 10 days were showery. 2·99in. of rain fell at Newport in 16 days.

November was a mild month, and although rain fell on two thirds of the days, it was below the average. The maximum temperature was 60·2 on the 1st; and the

minimum temperature was 29·2 on the 11th. The mean temperature was 47·3. 3·13in. of rain fell in 20 days at Newport.

December was a remarkably mild month, so mild that it equalled in mildness December 1898, and was exceeded only by December 1868, in more than fifty years. The autumn flowers continued in bloom, and many of the spring flowers came into bloom. The maximum temperature was 55·3 on the 5th. There was no actual frost, but the temperature was 32·1 on the 22nd, which was the minimum temperature of the month. The mean temperature was 46·3. The temperature exceeded 50° in the shade on 20 days. There was rain on every day excepting 8. The wind was south to south-west on 26 days. 3·68in. of rain fell at Newport in 23 days. It is a great misfortune that the illness of the Ryde observer should have precluded the observations so conscientiously made for many years.

THE SANITARY STATE OF THE DISTRICT
GENERALLY AT THE END OF THE YEAR.

Zymotic diseases were somewhat prevalent at the end of the year, but they were of mild type for the most part. Health of the District.

Cases of scarlatina were present at Calbourne, Carisbrooke, Whippingham, Wotton, Haven Street, Binstead, and Haylands. Scarlatina.

There were cases of diphtheria at Freshwater, Brighthstone, Carisbrooke, Gunville, and Bowcombe. Diphtheria.

German measles was prevalent at Calbourne, the neighbourhood of Newport, Whippingham, and elsewhere. Rotheln.

There were cases of measles at Whitwell, Northwood, and Gurnard. Measles.

There were a few cases of whooping cough at Whitwell, St. Lawrence, and in the central sections. Whooping cough.

Chicken pox was epidemic at Bembridge, and there were cases in many parts of your district. Chicken pox.

Bembridge, a scattered rapidly-growing watering place at the extreme east of the Isle of Wight, may be roughly divided into Bembridge proper, Lane End, and Foreland. Bembridge and Lane End are sewered. The sewers have separate outfalls. Foreland should have a sewer. The Bembridge sewer is flushed from barrels of sea water. It requires 17 barrels of water to clear the High Street sewer. As the sewers are not frequently flushed on EAST MEDINE, Bembridge.

account of the labour and expense they are offensive in summer. Bembridge is scavenged. It is badly off for water. The majority of the inhabitants are supplied from surface wells in the gravel, and from rainwater tanks. They become dry after a few weeks without rain. There is an independent supply pumped from the Bembridge limestone to supply the estate of the Realization Company. It is also supplied to some other houses. A public water supply is a matter of the most urgent necessity, not only for the safety and prosperity of the place generally, but that the sewers may be efficiently flushed. Eight new houses were built in Bembridge in 1900.

Brading.

The ancient borough of Brading is slowly developing. Although removed from the coast the sea is within walk-distance, and it has an increasing visiting population in summer. It is scavenged and sewered for the greater part; but its southern section, known as Yarbridge, which is at present unsewered, should be provided with sewerage. Its water supply is obtained from public wells in the Bracklesham beds, from private surface wells, from deep wells in the chalk, and from rainwater tanks. It badly needs a public water supply, which may most readily be obtained by pumping from the chalk. As a matter of economy you proposed to supply both Brading and Bembridge from one source, the Bembridge limestone. But it is difficult to persuade neighbours to combine for the common good in the Isle of Wight; and you will probably succeed better by supplying each place separately. The chalk is a more dependable source of supply for a considerable population than the Bembridge limestone, these being the two formations available for each place. There were six new houses built in Brading last year.

A hamlet about a mile from Brading, known as ^{Adgestone.} Adgestone, has a public well to the east of it. Another public well to the west of Adgestone may be provided at no great cost, and it is necessary.

A mile to the west of Adgestone, in the valley of the ^{Alverstone.} *Eastern Yar* is the scattered hamlet of Alverstone, which contains several modern cottages of superior character. The water supply is obtained from dip wells, liable to pollution, in the lower greensand. Two houses were added to Alverstone.

The next hamlet to the west in the *Yar* valley is ^{Knighton.} Knighton, the site of the Ryde Waterworks, from which the farm and cottages are supplied with water.

Another of the *Yar* valley hamlets is Langbridge, ^{Langbridge.} which is supplied for the most part with water from a shallow "dip" well, loosely stoned in a cultivated garden. It is adjacent to Newchurch, and the independent water supply from Apse will be continued to Langbridge.

The ancient village of Newchurch, situated on a hill ^{Newchurch.} which is an outlier of the upper greensand, was a place of filth nuisances in which the incidence of diphtheria has been from time to time exceedingly severe. Pig keeping is often a nuisance there, but the sanitary condition of Newchurch has greatly changed for the better. The water supply, which is insufficient and unwholesome, and is obtained from surface dip wells, will be soon superseded by the independent supply you have arranged for.

The growing hamlet of Apse Heath, made up of sub- ^{Apse Heath.}stantial cottages situated mainly on both sides of the Newport and Sandown highway, is supplied with water

from surface "dip" wells and rainwater tanks. Its owner is about to give it an independent supply from the upper greensand.

Wroxall.

Wroxall, one of the large villages of your district, is rapidly increasing under the stimulus of an independent water supply from the upper greensand. From year to year the water main is extended as it is found necessary. Wroxall is not sewered. It is necessary you should scavenge the place as the stream is necessarily seriously polluted, Wroxall being situated in great part on the gault clay which does not admit of its filth soaking away in the subsoil. Four houses were built during the year under review.

Bonchurch.

Situated to the east of and almost forming part of Ventnor, Bonchurch is a residential place, very attractive to visitors on account of its picturesqueness. It has an independent water supply from the Ventnor waterworks, supplied from the upper greensand. It drains into leaking cesspits from which the contents soak into the broken ground upon which Bonchurch stands. It is requisite that it be scavenged. A new house was built at Bonchurch in 1900.

St. Lawrence,
Whitwell,
Undercliff, and
Niton
Undercliff.

The houses in the Undercliff drain as Bonchurch does, but unfortunately the majority of them do not possess an independent water supply, which may be so readily obtained from the upper greensand cliff which bounds it on the north. The development of the Undercliff is not rapid, but with the railway communication which it possesses it must progress. One house was built at St. Lawrence in 1900.

Railway communication and an independent water supply are assisting the development of the important village of Whitwell. It is one of the clay villages which will have to be scavenged in the near future, and must ultimately be sewered.

Southford, a collection of a few cottages with a flour mill and a farmstead, obtained its water, for all purposes practically, from the polluted stream. It is about a mile from Whitwell. In face of considerable opposition, including the protest of a public meeting, you carried a small pipe from the Whitwell supply to Southford. It was said there was scarcely sufficient water to supply Whitwell village and the adjoining hamlet of Nettlecomb, for which the supply was provided. As a matter of fact there is abundant water, and if the supply should at any time prove insufficient it may be made most abundant. A broad minded, far seeing policy would have been exhibited had a 3in. or 4in. main been laid to Southford with the view of extension eventually to Godshill, a large & increasing village which requires an independent water supply. The Southford main should be extended to the Redhill cottages and to Ford farm and cottages.

Another clay village, Niton is situated at the head of the *Eastern Yar*. A few houses are supplied with water piped from one of the springs; but for the most part water is obtained from surface wells liable to pollution. Niton Undercliff is supplied with water from the upper greensand cliff, carried in agricultural drain pipes, and liable to contamination. You are doing your best to give Niton a public water service. The time has come for scavenging the village, and sewerage will be desirable when water is available for flushing. Niton is one of the progressing places in your district. Seven houses were built in 1900, making nineteen new houses in four years.

Godshill.

The greensand village of Godshill is progressing, railway communication having stimulated its growth. Three new houses were erected in the year, and three in the previous year. It obtains its water from shallow wells liable to pollution from surface soakage and from soakage from the subsoil of heavily manured gardens. Godshill requires an independent water supply. The obvious nuisances of Godshill have largely disappeared, partly owing to your action in combining what was an irregular system of sewers, and giving them a proper outfall; but largely because so many cesspits have been abolished and pail closets substituted, with the view of protecting the water supplies as far as possible.

Merstone.

Like other hamlets and villages of your district, most of the flagrant nuisances of Merstone have been permanently abated. Slop drains have been cut off from the road gutter, old midden privies have been converted into pail closets, and the wells in the greensand have been reconstructed or protected by raising their heads above the surface soil. These places require now only systematic from house to house inspection, which I fear they do not always get.

Arreton.

The agricultural village of Arreton, on account of its growth as the result of railway communication, is scarcely one of the places referred to, for although pail closets have been substituted for leaking cesspits, the small curtilage of the newer houses does not admit of the disposal of their contents, and the risk of contamination of the wells sunk in the greensand is very great. The provision of the public water supply you have in contemplation is very necessary to the sanitary well-being of Arreton. Two new houses were erected in 1900.

The water supply of the stationary hamlet of Blaek-^{Blackwater.} water is very unsatisfactory, being derived from a polluted stream, and from surface wells liable to contamination. There are one or two fairly good wells, and drinking water is obtained by some of the inhabitants from an agricultural pipe which brings water from the plateau gravel on St. George's down.

A small cluster of houses just outside the boundary of ^{Slide.} Newport at Slide, obtain their water from the supply of that town, and drain into the *Medina*.

The collection of houses just beyond the boundary of ^{Fairlee.} the Borough of Newport, on the highway to East Cowes, are supplied from the water service of that town, and are drained by a sewer which connects with the Newport system. When you again take up the question of widening the road to the Barton cemetery, which is only less dangerous than Whitepit lane, you may with advantage give attention to the water supply of the district beyond Fairlee.

The large and populous village of Wootton, on the ^{Wootton.} Newport and Ryde highway, is rapidly progressing. Two houses were built during the year under review, making thirty-eight new houses in seven years. Wootton is sewered but not scavenged. There is an independent water supply from the gravel, but the source of supply is not at sufficient elevation to supply many of the newer houses. There are three public wells: one at Wootton Bridge to the Bembridge limestone, another on the slope of the hill, and a third towards Wootton Common which is of great depth, and reaches the Bagshot sands. The other sources of water supply are rainwater tanks and surface wells in the gravel. It would add to the sanitary

safety of Wootton and stimulate progress if the Binstead water main, carrying water from the Ryde Waterworks, which already reaches Wootton Bridge, were carried across it and continued to the top of Wootton Hill and to Chapel Corner.

Kite Hill.

The collection of houses beyond the bridge at Wootton towards Ryde, known as Kite Hill, is supplied by means of an inch pipe from the Wootton water service, of which I have spoken, and also by the Binstead water main from Ryde. The enterprise of Binstead will be rewarded in time, as the presence of the water main is certain to stimulate building operations. Kite Hill has cesspit drainage, and the proximity of the creek would suggest overflow pipes. As a matter of fact nuisances—now remedied—were occasioned, apparently, by this cause.

Fishbourne.

At the eastern entrance of Wootton Creek, away from main thoroughfares is Fishbourne, which owed its importance to a shipbuilding industry. Small yachts lie on the mud there in winter, and shipbuilding is still carried on there. It has a well-appointed Coast Guard Station. It is sewered by a system of irregular drains, which discharge into the creek, and until some of them were lengthened they were a source of considerable nuisance. A proper sewerage system should be substituted for them. Its water supply is obtained from rainwater tanks, and from a public well to the Bembridge limestone; but the independent supply now secured will add immensely to its sanitary welfare.

Binstead.

The village of Binstead, situated just beyond the western boundary of the Borough of Ryde, is a residential place as well as the home of a working population. It is sewered and has an independent water supply. It is a

progressive place. Six new houses were erected there in 1900. The nuisance arising from pig-keeping is an old standing one and ought to be suppressed. Binstead is not scavenged as the houses have for the most part good sized gardens.

Haylands is situated just outside Ryde, on the south. Haylands. It is sewered and has an independent water supply, from which all the houses should be supplied. Upton, which is a continuation of Haylands, has also the benefit of this supply, which is of greater importance inasmuch as several dairy places are situated there. This district requires regular systematic inspection. One house was built at Haylands during the year.

The village of Haven Street, situated on the Bembridge Haven Street. clay, was formerly one of the most troublesome and difficult villages in your district; but the obvious nuisances have now almost disappeared, speaking generally. The almost entire absence of wholesome water was a great detriment, but this has been remedied by its independent water supply. It has not been so fully made use of as it should have been as the coating of the pipes gave a disagreeable taste to the water. This was due, perhaps, in some measure, to a little too stringent economy of water for flushing, on the part of the Ashley Parochial Committee. A sewer would be of great benefit to this clay village.

Freshwater, at the extreme west of the Isle of Wight, WEST MEDINE,
Freshwater. balances Bembridge at the extreme east. With ordinary prudence, foresight, and business principle, these places will develop into thriving communities in the course of a few years, but at the moment the inhabitants depend entirely upon you to safeguard the future. The

prosperity of Bembridge is blocked by the want of water; the prosperity of Freshwater is blocked by the want of sewerage. Formerly there was added to this the want of wholesome water. Clamour and invective were as strong when an independent water supply was suggested, as lately, at the mention of an efficient system of sewerage. Freshwater has an independent water supply, as a result of private enterprise. Had the inhabitants, fifteen years ago, accepted the recommendation made to them, their water rents would, at the present time, assist them to pay for sewerage. The sanitary condition of Freshwater, at the end of 1900 was almost precisely the same as at the end of 1899 and 1898; and as I so fully described it in my annual report for the latter year (pages 106, 107, 108, and 109) and in that for 1899 (pages 60 and 61), I need say no more than that eighteen houses were erected in 1900, making fifty-six new houses in three years.

Totland,

Totland is divided into two sections, Totland Bay on the north-west coast, and the Avenue district, continuous with the School Green and High Street districts of Freshwater, on the south-eastern slope of the hill, the north-west slope of which is occupied by the Totland Bay district. Totland Bay is sewered, scavenged, and has an independent water supply. The Avenue district is scavenged but not sewered, and has an independent water supply. Seven houses were built in Totland in the year under review.

Colwell Bay,

The next bay to the east, on the north-west coast of the Isle of Wight, is Colwell Bay, which is slowly developing. Two houses were erected there in 1900. It is supplied independently from the Freshwater Waterworks. A sewer runs through it, and this will be available for some of the houses which will be built in the future.

The only sensible solution of the town question at the west of the Island, is a municipality including Freshwater, Totland, Colwell, and Norton. The acquisition of Colwell common on behalf of the community will be of immense value to such a municipality. The Solent tunnel railway, which is destined to be made, will help forward the development of this part of your district, and prepare the way for incorporation, if the ill considered scheme for making the parish of Freshwater an Urban District is quashed.

The influence of the tunnel railway will be felt at Yarmouth. Yarmouth in only less degree than on the western side of the Yar. Yarmouth is sewered and scavenged, and has an independent water supply. One new house was erected there last year. The sea wall you have constructed will enable the Yarmouth Town Trust to lay out Yarmouth common as a pleasure ground.

The Bouldnor building estate to the east of Yarmouth, Bouldnor-on-Sea, will develop more rapidly under the stimulus of the railway; and another building estate to the east of Bouldnor, which is being opened up, will also benefit. Bouldnor is supplied from the Freshwater Waterworks. As buildings increase, sewers, which are desirable now, will become necessary.

The sanitary state of the adjoining hamlets, Wellow and Thorley, is very different from what it was a few years ago, as regards filth nuisances; but a better water supply is a sanitary necessity to these places. A public well to the Bembridge limestone—a very ancient well which your predecessors re-constructed and protected—has been of great service to Wellow. But it is characteristic of this formation as a source of water supply, that

while it rarely wholly fails, in dry seasons the amount of water is often small. In such seasons a Bembridge limestone well may be quickly pumped out and a long wait may be necessary while the water runs in. The Shalfleet public supply, for which leave to borrow has been solicited, will supply the want of abundant wholesome water. A new house was built at Wellow in 1900.

Ningwood.

The little hamlet of Ningwood which will also be supplied from Shalcombe, is practically without water in summer, and people resort to the pools in the bed of the polluted stream. A new house was erected on Ningwood common last year.

Newbridge.

The village of Newbridge lies between Ningwood and Calbourne. The new water supply will be a blessing to the population, the majority of whom, perhaps, get their water—at the cost of great labour, for Newbridge is situated on a steep declivity at the foot of which the *Caulbourne* flows—from the polluted stream.

Calbourne.

The village of Calbourne is a comparatively clean place as compared with its state in the past; but its water supply leaves much to be desired. It is obtained from the stream—near its source it is true—from shallow wells in the chalk, from surface wells sunk in the plateau gravel, from rainwater tanks, and from a deep public well in the chalk.

Shalfleet.

The village of Shalfleet is situate partly in the parish of Shalfleet and partly in that of Calbourne. The *Caulbourne* which separates the two parishes is the main source of water supply. It is polluted almost to its source by farm yard drainage and cesspit overflows, in

spite of all which has been done to prevent it. The proposed water supply will remove this source of danger on the Shalfleet side of the stream; and it will be advisable to continue the main at once to the Calbourne part of the village.

The ancient borough of Frenchville, now a mere ham-^{Newtown.}let, has its public well carried down to the Bembridge limestone, which supplies a wide area at infinite labour and no little cost in summer. It is unfortunate the cheaper form of water supply from public wells has come to be adopted in the parish of Calbourne.

As compared with the time when Dr. Ballard made his report on the water supply of the scattered hamlets of^{Porchfield and Locks Green.} Porchfield and Lock's Green the water supply is good. Then the people drank from ponds and ditches fouled by cattle; now they have rainwater tanks, and there is a public well in a little pocket of sand and gravel at Porchfield. But in dry summers there is much stress from want of wholesome water.

Forest Side and Gunville have the benefit of an independent water supply from the Newport Waterworks.^{Forest Side and Gunville Lane.} Gunville, a suburb of Carisbrooke, is a place of market gardens. It is rapidly increasing in population. Four new houses were built in 1898. There were ten built in 1899. The sanitary state of Gunville has completely changed for the better. Pail closets have been substituted for insanitary privies; and the gutter nuisances, although still in evidence, have been largely abated.

A part of the Parish of Carisbrooke continuous with^{Parkhurst and Hunnyhill.} the Borough of Newport at Hunnyhill, is increasing in connection with the development of a building estate.

Four new houses were built in the Albany Road and two in Heytesbury Road during the year under review. Water is laid on to the houses from the Newport water mains, and they in part drain into the Newport sewer.

The Workhouse. The sewerage arrangements at the Workhouse were more satisfactory at the end of the year than at the end of previous years. Its water supply is pumped from the Bagshot sands.

Parkhurst Barracks and Prison.

Both the Barracks and Prison are supplied independently from the Newport Waterworks. That the use of water from a polluted well should have been tolerated so long at the Barracks is a great reflection upon the military authorities. The unsatisfactory supplemental supply from the gravel in Parkhurst Forest should also be abandoned. The sewage of the Barracks and Prison is carried to subsidence tanks and treated by the international process, the effluent being discharged into Dodnor Creek. The effluvium from this effluent, which is sometimes observable, would seem to suggest that occasionally, at least, there is undue economy in the use of the lime and iron precipitants.

The Medina Cement Works.

In large measure due to your efforts the smoke nuisance at the Cement Works has greatly lessened in recent years. The water supply is anything but satisfactory, but it is to be hoped that this will soon be remedied by the Northwood water supply, tenders for the provision of which you have accepted.

Horsebridge Hill.

You scavenge Horsebridge Hill which lies north of Parkhurst Prison, on the Newport and Cowes highway. It possesses an irregular system of sewerage which is of service. It is supplied with water from the Newport

Waterworks, as far as it will rise. The extension of the supply will lead to the development of this district, which is a convenient place of residence for those employed at the Prison, and for married men living out of Barracks.

The parish of Northwood, which is extensive, and is Northwood. as badly supplied with water as any parish in your district, includes several hamlets and collections of houses, such as Northwood, Noke Common, Marks' Corner, Furzyhurst, Wyatt's Lane and the Parochial Schools, Tinker's Lane, Flower Pot district and Somerton, Three Gates, and Rew Street. With the exception of Rew Street, all these places will have the advantage of abundant wholesome water. And although it will cost between £3000 and £4000 to lay the pipes, and Northwood will have to pay tenpence per thousand gallons for the water, it will possess an asset of infinitely greater value than the money cost of the supply will represent. Building operations were suspended in this parish in 1900, partly because of the uncertainty with reference to the destiny of Gurnard, and partly because the provision of a public water service was imminent. Increased prosperity Northwood is certain to obtain, but the degree of it will in some measure depend upon the advent of public spirit among those who have hitherto, perhaps, regarded the public works initiated by you, and which are now being carried out, for the highest sanitary good of the people, too much from the point of view of private interests.

But the most important section of the Parish of North- Gurnard. wood is Gurnard, a rising watering place and health resort on the coast, the state of which at the end of the year, was as at the end of recent years. Much has been done to ameliorate the sanitary condition of Gurnard, but

it has of late been like beating the air in the absence of the two essentials for securing its sanitary well-being — independent water supply and sewerage—and these you are about to supply.

Carisbrooke.

The stepping from darkness into sunlight is not a greater change than that produced in a place from the sanitary standpoint by the provision of sewers and an independent water supply. Carisbrooke exemplifies this. There were filth nuisances which could not be abated without sewers, and so obvious that they brought discredit upon the sanitary authority up to a little more than a year ago when the sewage system was completed, and now they have disappeared. You scavenge Carisbrooke, and it is supplied with water independently from the Newport public water service. Carisbrooke continues to increase. Sixteen houses were built in the parish last year, of which six were built in the village, including Alvington road.

Chillerton and Gatecombe.

The agricultural villages of Gatecombe and Chillerton have abundant water, but it has not hitherto been made available for the inhabitants. Gatecombe has now an independent supply. Chillerton has a pump at the top of the street, a pipe discharging water from the upper greensand into the perennial rivulet which flows by the side of the highway, a few surface wells liable to pollution, and rainwater tanks, from all of which the people drink.

Chale and Blackgang.

The district known as Chale and Blackgang is particularly picturesque and most attractive as a health resort, but the gault is at the surface, and there is great dearth of wholesome water in consequence, while abundant water is contained in and constantly flowing

from the upper greensand above it, which has not yet been made available for the population. Your intention to make it available will be realised, in all probability during the first year of the new century.

It is necessary to keep the fact before you that the people of Atherfield—a hamlet situated between Chale and Shorwell—have a most inadequate supply of wholesome water.

Speaking generally, the sanitary state of the agricultural village of Shorwell was satisfactory at the close of the year. The opportunity of affording it an independent water supply I fear is past, as the springs from which it would be necessary to obtain it are in enclosed pleasure grounds. Public wells, although a poor substitute, are of considerable benefit, and these Shorwell has, or, rather, it has a public well at the north of the village, and in the south of it a pump by the roadside has water piped to it from the springs I have mentioned. The old well at the top of Newbarn lane should be reconstructed and made available for the supply of the adjacent cottages. A substantial cottage was built at Shorwell during the year.

The little hamlet of Limerstone is supplied with water from an upper greensand pond to which cattle have access. It is piped to a tap by the highway. It is not altogether satisfactory, and if it were, it should be laid on to the cottages. It is useful for household purposes, but the people go to the withey bed for drinking water. This source of water supply should be protected, or the Brighstone main should be extended to Limerstone.

Brighstone.

The agricultural village of Brighstone, with a stream running through it, had no obvious nuisances at the end of the year, and its magnificent water supply assures its safety, in a sanitary sense, as it has never been assured before. A large new residence was erected there last year.

Mottistone,
Hulverston,
and Brooke.

The three small hamlets known as Mottistone, Hulverstone, and Brooke are supplied independently with water from the upper greensand, the former on the east from the Brighstone supply, and on the west from the Brooke supply by an extension of the Brooke main from Hulverstone. A new house was erected at Hulverstone during the year, and two new houses at Brooke Green. The sewerage of Brooke house, which is a source of difficulty, may be best dealt with, probably, by discharging it below low water mark.

Compton.

The farm and cottages at Compton are supplied with water by piping it from the upper greensand to the north of them. So many small communities and so many farmhouses in your district may be thus independently supplied from neighbouring hills, at no great expense. It would be well if agents remembered that the law compels you to see that every dwelling-house has within reasonable distance, an available sufficient supply of wholesome water.

Inspection

You have four sanitary inspectors who are also your surveyors for all purposes. As inspectors their duties are very wide, including as they do from house to house inspection, in order that every house in the district may be visited and inspected periodically—say once a quarter; visiting in cases of infectious diseases, supplying

disinfectants, and subsequently disinfecting; periodic inspection of cowsheds, dairies, milkshops, slaughterhouses, and bakehouses; attending to all kinds of nuisances reported, to water supplies, sewers, and scavenging; and there are many other duties to which they have to give attention as sanitary inspectors, which I need not specify. As sanitary surveyors they have to inspect every new building, visiting each several times during their erection; they have to see that the bye-laws are strictly observed; they have to superintend the carrying out of extensions of sewers and of water mains; and they should, and do to some extent, design and carry out new systems of sewerage and water supply. Moreover they are your surveyors of highways, and as such they have not only to direct and superintend the roadmen and their work, and estimate the amount of gravel required for metaling, but they must design the construction of culverts and watercourses, and the new roads, and all kinds of engineering works connected with the roads. For example, one of your surveyors designed and carried out an important sea wall which has been constructed during the winter. They have, too, a large amount of clerical work, as they have to report all their work as inspectors and surveyors, and have to write a large number of letters. Their time is further taken up in attending all meetings of your council, and all committee meetings, both sanitary and those connected with highway matters. The danger always is in these joint appointments that the surveying work has prominence to the detriment of the sanitary work. I believe the inspectors do their best to carry out their multitudinous duties; but I need not enlarge upon the subject as I so fully reported upon it in my annual report for 1899, pp. 68, 69, 70, and 71.

Procedure.

You meet monthly as the Isle of Wight Rural District Council, after the rising of the Board of Guardians. You attend chiefly to sanitary matters, but any highway work of importance is also considered. After the alternate meeting of the Board of Guardians you meet as a Highway Committee, sanitary matters of importance being also taken. The General Purposes Committee, a committee of the whole council, meets once a month to consider questions referred to it by the council. The Sanitary Inspectors Committee meets fortnightly to go through the reports of the inspectors. You have numerous special committees and sub-committees at which much useful work is done. You have also a Parochial Committee in each parish, consisting of the parish councillors and the representative or representatives of the parish on the Rural District Council. To these committees matters appertaining to the parish are referred. These committees are the least satisfactory part of your proceedings. As there is sometimes insistence upon the view of the Parochial Committee being accepted, and as there is still an inclination, though much less marked than formerly, to defer to that view, it would seem desirable that other members of your council should sit upon parochial committees when questions are considered which involve your responsibilities.

In deference to your wishes I have considerably curtailed this report. Although the effort of writing has been less, it would have been more satisfactory to me to treat fully the subjects with which I have had to deal, and it would have been less difficult; but whether the report be long or short, or whether it be acceptable to you or not, if it be a record of progress made, if it can show that the object for which you exist as an administrative body has been in any sense attained, if it can

make evident that the health of the people is better guarded than it was a year ago, there is a peculiar solace in the reflection that the labour expended has not been put forth in vain, and that the year was lived to purpose. That it has been so I think the last annual report of the 10th Century, on the health of the Rural Sanitary District of the Isle of Wight, goes to prove.

I have the honour to be,

Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

J. GROVES.

Carisbrooke.

